THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) The Central Government would like the States concered to sort out their differences over the matter amicably and would be willing to help in the matter.

Freedom Fighters' pension in Andhra Pradesh

2196. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases pending the grant of freedom fighters' pension from Andhra Pradesh as on 31st December, 2002 and since when these are pending;

(b) the action taken by Government to expedite these cases; and

(c) by when all these cases are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) No cases complete in all respects eligible for Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension duly verified and recommended by the Government of Andhra Pradesh are pending in the Ministry except 3568 cases relating to Hyderabad Liberation Movement, as on 31.12.2002. Government of India had constituted a Special Screening Committee to scrutinize the claims for Samman Pension on the grounds of participation in border camps during Hyderabad Liberation Movement. Since some complaints were received about the cases recommended by the Committee, all these cases were referred to the concerned State Government of Anhdra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra for verification of claims. Reports from State Governments are being received in batches.

(b) Till 31.12.2002, 3581 reports from these State Governments including 3568 reports from the Government of Andhra Pradesh have been received and these are being processed expeditiously for appropriate decision.

(c) While all efforts are being made to dispose of these cases as early as possible no time frame can be indicated.